



MEETING MINUTES / 15 JANUARY 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Baldwin, Bradley, Johnson (call-in) Lardizzone, Lopez, McMullen, Sarg, Seppala **66%**

Excused: Armbruster, Farley, Magner, Newman, Newstadt

Unexcused:

Guests: Vince Kane (Wilmington VAMC) (call-in), Paula Witcher (Veterans Multi-Service Center) Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, Devon Reed (U.S. Census Bureau), Alexa Ciero (U.S. Census Bureau)

CHAIRWOMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for commissioners dealing with illness and fallen comrades
Thanked commissioners for supporting events

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and McMullen

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director (telephone)

Town Hall event went extremely well

- Promoted opportunity for VHA and VBA to increase presence in Sussex

New outreach member (Kent / Sussex) is Valerie Camarillo

- Goal is to improved outreach in Sussex

Dover expansion solicitation closes at the end of the month

- Met with perspective developers, a lot of interest in the project

- Mid to late spring envisioning a developer selection

- Goal is to have an operational clinic in mid-2020

Mentioned during Town Hall and VSO meeting, looking a mobile clinic utilization

- Had primary care piece attached to clinic, but usage numbers were low

- Repurposing clinic for more outreach venues and community engagement

- Veterans who received care via this clinic will be transferred to the center or virtual care centers

- - To be completed within 90 days

- Mobile clinic is not going away it will have a different mission

Upcoming announcement on new Public Affairs Officer

Need to meet with Bill Peterson about effectiveness of telehealth program beyond mental health

(Bradley) Thanked VA for using post for Town Hall

(Lopez) Regarding VA Family Caregiver Program who is monitoring the program?

Tracey Pearson

Been asked by VISN to review how the program assists veterans

(Sarg) Can you do post-traumatic stress counseling via telehealth for DVH residents?

Need to speak with Bill Peterson on how the referral process will look for this concern

Technology is in place, need to refine the people piece

(McMullen) Have you filled the ENT position?

Still seeking a provider, initial recruitment did not work

Working with Dr. Krause, who oversees regional surgical approach to care in eastern market

- He's working with University of Pennsylvania for possible recruitment

Advertising position throughout VA system

This week VA Secretary is emphasizing suicide prevention, so communicate these efforts to the various veteran organizations

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Paula Witcher, Veterans Multi-Service Center

Continuum of Care is sponsoring a state-wide Point in Time Count on 30 January

- Seeking volunteers for outdoor team (looks for homeless veterans)

- Really need West Sussex and Kent volunteers

- Times are from 2000 – 0100 outside looking for homeless members throughout Delaware

- Code Purple Team goes to shelters, between 1900 – 2200, when temperatures fall below freezing to assess residents

Check with or email Paula for training information

On 31 January will visit methadone clinics to assess those residents

Survey, asking about status, is presented to homeless citizens during Point in Time count

Anna Lopez, Commissioner (speaking for Liz Byers-Jiron)

Stand Down planning meeting is 24 January / 1400 at DCVA

Womens Tea meeting is 22 January / 1600 Elks Lodge

- Tea is 30 March / 1400 at Elks Lodge

- Seeking photos of female veterans (in uniform)

- Elks are assisting with funding

- Tentative guest speaker Chairperson Showell

Alexa Ciero and Devon Reed, U.S. Census Advisory

Presented information on upcoming 2020 census and urged participation

Slides were made available for attendees

No specific questions asking if citizens are veterans

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 63

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Hired Woody Jones as new conservation tech

Replacing parking lot and mechanical shop lights with LEDs

Largest Wreaths Across America participants

Construction on new columbarium wall to begin later this year

Interments – 29

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Provided printout with Traumatic Brain Injury Fund Financial Assistance

- Via Department of Health and Social Services, managed through State Council for Persons with Disabilities

- Fund receives \$50K / annually from General Assembly

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

General Assembly is back in session

DCVA will have an information table in Legislative Hall at 1100 on 23 January

Commissioner Sarg has compiled DCVA Legislative Concerns and Recommendations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 9; Granted 7 (77.7%); Awarded \$7,529.22; Balance - \$69,088.00

2019 DVTF Information: Granted 104 for \$103,433.50

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Next Chapter meeting is 17 January / 1030

- Will elect new officers and approve 2019 budget

Did sox drive with local agencies and churches

Planning a 5K Walk/Run in March or April that will start and finish at the AMC Museum

Division 1, Professional Airman's Conference is 21 - 23 March 2019 in Burlington, MA

- Guest include CMSAF11 Murry, AFSA International President Carlton, Executive Director Reed, Lobbyist Lokovic and Cory Etchenberger, author and son of Medal of Honor Recipient CMSgt Etchenberger.

18 Dec: Attended DCVA Holiday Party at Del Vets Post2

15 Jan: Participated in the DCVA Executive Committee

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

American Legion National Organization began 2019 with a Rose Parade float in Pasadena, CA kicking of their 100th year

American Legion Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan will have a luncheon on 16 January at Post 28

National Commander Brett Reistad will visit Delaware 3 – 5 March with a Dover Downs dinner

State oratorical contest will be held at the Wilmington VAMC on 12 February

U.S. Coast Guard members, due to the federal shutdown, can receive temporary financial assistance through the national organization

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

The Department of Delaware sent Abbie Christopher and Lauren Melton of Cape Henlopen High School's JORTC to the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge Pa

Post 2 hosted the VA Town Hall meeting on 9 January, well attended, and thanks to Mark Taylor for coordinating the event

Ladies Auxiliary made donations trust fund, People's Place, Children's Beach House (Lewes), and Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

Department Service Officers handled 74 clients and two veterans needing heating and electric bill assistance

18 Jan: Attended VSO meeting at Wilmington VAMC

18 Jan: Attended Executive Committee meeting

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Local journalist Madeleine Overturn, born in South Korea, attended the departmental Christmas Party

- Father was a pilot during the Korean War

- She returns to South Korea frequently to honor her heritage

Chapter 1 held officer inductions and chapter 2 will hold officer inductions at next meeting

Upcoming Ruck March at Dover AFB members attend to represent the Korean War

Upcoming pancake breakfast fund raiser at Rehoboth Applebee's

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Toys for Tots, Kent County, delivered 14,815 toys, 271 books, and 2300 stocking stuffers to 2963 needy children

- The state-wide program result have not been finalized

Provided Delaware Veteran Homelessness Report – 44 veterans are experiencing homelessness with 18 opting out of pursuing permanent housing

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

7 Jan: Attended Traumatic Brain Injury Fund Selection Committee meeting

- Two applications are pending

7 Jan: Attended Traumatic Brain Injury Committee Meeting

8 Jan: Attended Employment First Oversight Committee meeting with Rita Landgraf

11 Jan: Attended DE Veterans Home Dental Suite Building and Engineering Contractor interviews and selection

- Previously inspected state owned dental van for possible use, unfortunate did not meet veterans' home needs

14 Jan: Attended DE Veterans Home Patient Admissions meeting

19 Jan: Kent Chapter meeting, Commissioner Sarg will step down as chapter president after 14 years

- Eugenia Thornton is incoming president

- Remaining as state council president

Left flyer for JROTC Scholarship Fundraiser

13 February / 1100 – 2130, Outback Steakhouse, Dover

15% of check goes to MOAA for scholarship donations (dining-in or call-in)

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

12 Jan: Held Departmental Executive meeting in Dover

- Guest speaker retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Herbert Welday

- - Currently with Friends of the Fallen as the Dignified Transfer Coordinator

- - Discussed the friend's operations for families of the deceased that pass thru the Dover Air Base Mortuary

- Second speaker Bob Lawrence President, Eastern Shore Navy League

- - Discussed organization's support of the Naval Service to include not only the Navy, but the Marines Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant

- Currently support Officers and Enlisted of the USS MARYLAND (SSBN-738) Ohio Class nuclear sub

The department made a \$1.5K donation to the Friends of the Fallen

18 May: Department Convention

8 – 12 Jul: National MOPH Convention will be held in Branson, MO

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Working with Dr. Andrzejewski for establishment of Veteran Job Resource Center at Wilmington University

- For all veteran students, not just that university

Seeking to establish trust fund endowment for Friends of Delaware Veterans

- Initial cost \$25K plans on raising monies through book selling fundraising and establishing by September

VVA Motorcycle Club will make special presentations to helpers of Pearl Harbor Memorial

- Including the Military Sealift Command who donated the anchor

Accompanying DE Department of Labor (DOL) to Richmond to discuss their DOL's Virginia Values Veterans program

- Program awards businesses that hire veterans

- Holds monthly lunch job fairs on military

- Companies pay \$5K to join the program and participate in the fairs

9 Jan: AMVETS Post 2 sponsored VA Town Hall

Selling my book at events for Trust Fund

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

27 Mar: Military Ball at Chase Center

Chicks for Charity follow-on: Georgetown organization, Aloof Arrow Architects, learned of trust fund and did silent auction

- Raised close to \$1K

- Will present to Chairperson Showell and Dave Skocik

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

20 Dec: DelVets Post 2 sponsored five families with benevolent assistance through the holidays, including toys for children

3 Jan: Attended the Military Women's Tea meeting.

9 Jan: Attended VA Town Hall and Resource fair at AMVETS, Millsboro

Ongoing committees: Military Women's Tea, Convoy of Hope (church and agency sponsored to help homeless citizens), and Veteran Stand Down

DelVets Post 2 Commander term ends March

Will promote DelVets scholarship program, will forward applications via email

(Baldwin) Recommended giving to JROTC units

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

Nothing to report

TERM COMPLETION:

EVENTS:

23 Jan / 1100: DCVA Table Display, Legislative Hall

12 Feb / 1030: Veterans Education Task Force meeting, DNG Biden Center

21 Feb / 0830: Delaware Joining Forces, DNG Biden Center

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

By Laws Review Committee Information (OPEN)

Legislative Proposal Process (OPEN)

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

CLOSED SESSION:

Closed the phone communications during the session

There weren't 2/3 representation (ten members) available to vote on by-laws recommendations so no vote was taken

Discussed legislative proposal process

- Reviewed legislative recommendations and concerns

- Reviewed updated veterans affairs committee (House / Senate)

Legislative Committee requested list of all General Assembly members

Commissioner McMullen will coordinate with Veterans Affairs Committees to schedule a date for DCVA legislative recommendation presentation

Discussed HB 18 and Commissioner Bradley provided an oversight of service organizations with gaming (who will be contributing to the proposed bill)

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 19 February 2019 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs